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The world Laureates Symposium held in Shanghai



On November 1, 2019, Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang presided over the World Laureates Symposium in Shanghai. Focusing on “Technology for the Common Destiny of Mankind”, he exchanged in-depth views with more than 30 Nobel laureates and more than 10 winners of other important science awards, listened to their views on the trend of the world’s frontier science and technology, as well as their opinions on the development of science and technology in China and suggestions for promoting openness and cooperation in science, technology and innovation in the new era.

Minister Wang Zhigang cited Chinese President Xi Jinping as saying that science and technology is a great creative undertaking of mankind and developing science and technology calls for a global vision and the grasping of the trend of the times and that China is willing to work together with the rest of the world to enhance scientific research, increase collaboration, promote advances in science and technology and meet the challenges of the times. Minister Wang Zhigang noted that the Chinese government values science, technology and innovation, as well as openness and cooperation, because science knows no borders. He said that the world is a system, and people have social and natural attributes, the former of which calls for greater exchanges between different peoples while the latter calls for our joint efforts for protecting our shared planet and tackling common global challenges. Going forward, China will remain committed to reform and opening up, and will open wider rather than shut its door to the outside world. China will always be at the forefront in opening up and

cooperation in science, technology and innovation. Minister Wang Zhigang also said that China will actively work with its international partners to explore effective ways of cooperation, and deepen its content, so as to contribute to the progress of human civilization, the development of world science and technology and the well-being of the peoples.

Speakers included 26 Nobel laureates in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine and economics from the United States, the UK, France, Japan, Israel, Switzerland, Norway and other countries, as well as winners of the Wolf Prize, Lasker Award, Turing Award, and MacArthur Fellowship. Scientists from around the world, including Roger Kornberg, President of the World Laureates Association and the 2006 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, echoed Minister Wang Zhigang’s views and appreciated China’s progress in science, technology and innovation and its commitment to opening up and cooperation. The scientists said that they come from different countries, have different disciplinary backgrounds and they are eager to strengthen cooperation among science communities in working hard to explore basic science and discover knowledge, to deepen and expand science and technology exchanges and cooperation with countries including China, and to work together to contribute to advances in science and technology.

(Source: Ministry of Science and Technology)

The 1st World Science and Technology Development Forum has held in Beijing



During October 16-17, 2019, the first World Science and Technology Development Forum was held in Beijing. Co-sponsored by the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Chinese Academy of Engineering, the forum was themed

“science • technology • development”. Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to the forum.

On the sidelines of the forum, 3 sub-forums were held in parallel, respectively on technological revolution and industrial transformation, science, technology, education and culture, and young scientists and the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises. A total of 50 eminent experts, members of important S&T organizations and famous entrepreneurs gave presentations. More than 500 representatives from 18 countries and regions gathered together to discuss the technological civilization and explore future development.

With a focus on hot topics in technological revolution and industrial transformation, the forum adopted an international perspective. CAST pooled its resources to select top participants from a wide range of fields. Following a results-oriented approach, the forum produced high-level scientific research results. There was wide coverage of the event, raising the profile of the sub-forums.



The forum published top 10 scientific problems concerning the development of human society in 2019.

They are: how to prevent and block the massive outbreak of new infectious diseases, what impact social changes have on physical and mental health, whether an accurate, comprehensive prediction for human diseases is possible in the future, what new technologies can be used for early diagnosis of cancer and prognosis surveillance, how human beings continue to evolve within safe planetary boundaries, how to effectively address transboundary air, water and soil pollution, how to fully purify wastewater, whether controlled nuclear fusion can address future energy issues facing mankind, how to convert and store new energy in an efficient way, and how big cities achieve energy-water-food supply balance and equity.

The ten problems were selected based on the

Scopus' search results of hot words in research related to the 17 SDGs of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in-depth discussions of eminent editors of journals and top scientists, and were finalized by the Academic Exchanges Panel of the 9th Standing Committee of CAST.

According to Cai Ronggen, an academician of CAS, the publication, by putting up top 10 pressing problems in health, environment, energy, etc concerning basic needs of human beings, represents the wisdom of the world's top scientists. He expressed his hope that scientists across the world could work together and adopt effective measures to tackle the problems holding back the sustainable development of mankind.

Anne Kitson, Senior Vice President at Elsevier, noted that global problems call for global solutions. It is particularly the case with the climate, air, soil and ocean. Countries around the world should work together to seek scientific solutions to those problems.

(Source: Official websites of CAST, CAS, CAE and the Ministry of Science and Technology)

The 2nd World Laureates Forum runs in Shanghai

On October 29-31, 2019, the 2nd World Laureates Forum was held in Shanghai.



Roger Kornberg, the 2006 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry and chairman of World Laureates Association (WLA) addressed the opening ceremony. He noted that studies in basic science are key to addressing future problems. WLA is committed to inspiring top scientists to do more basic research, and make breakthroughs through global collaboration. WLA will also strive to train young scientists. WLA wishes to work together with universities and businesses to promote research and commercialization of research results.

Focusing on “technology for the common

destiny of mankind”, the event consisted of thematic forums, a young scientists forum, and a roundtable on frontier science and technology and innovation-driven development. The four thematic forums were about photonic science and industry, life science and industry, new drug development and translational medicine, brain science and artificial intelligence respectively. Scientists attending the event come from a wide range of areas, such as chemistry, physics, medicine and computer science, and include top scientists from the United States, the UK, Norway, Germany and Israel.

The 1st WLA Scientific Community was launched at the opening ceremony.

Bringing together the world’s top scientists, mainly winners of Nobel Prize, Lasker Award and Wolf Prize, the scientific community is committed to bringing their original, commercially viable S&T resources into Shanghai Hi-tech Start-up Center, and further to China's huge market, so that more fundamental, original and industrial innovations can bear fruits in China.

Technology for the common destiny of mankind--the 2nd WLA Shanghai Initiative was released at the forum.

The initiative reaffirmed the importance of basic science as the source of social changes, highlighting the fundamental role of openness, cooperation and the scientific community, and calling for stronger support for young scientists and the building of a healthy global scientific ecosystem. It proposed that science and technology and scientists should take a bigger role to benefit mankind, and that a better approach should be developed for S&T governance.



Unveiling ceremony of WLA International Research Laboratory

(Source: Official website of CAST)